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VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 7 NO. 5

JUNE 2004

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1998!

**ANTI-GAY
AMENDMENTS
TABLED IN
PA STATE
HOUSE
HOW DID YOUR
REPRESENTATIVE
VOTE?
SEE PAGE 6.**

**GAY MEN'S
CHORUS CONCERT
JUNE 5 AT 8PM**

On May 1, the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus invited Governor Rendell to sing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" in an elevator with them. Intrigued? Good.

Hear the whole story at the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus' s spring concert on June 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem. The theme for the evening is "Once upon a Time." Along with the tale of their encounter with the Governor, an indisposed diva, and two Royal Canadian Mounted Police, this concert will feature the return of "The Four Tunes," the Chorus's barbershop (okay, hair cuttery) quartet. Tickets are \$12 from Chorus members, at the door, or at www.LVGMC.org. Senior & student discounts available.

PRIZM PROM

The Lehigh Valley's first Prizm Prom for GLBT youth, held at the Raddison Bethlehem Hotel, was a huge success! Around sixty people attended, some coming from as far away as Harrisburg. A great time was had by all. A Prom King and Prom Queen and a Drag King were elected by attendees. HAVEN, which sponsored the prom, hopes to hold a similar event next year.

The event drew a great deal of media attention including TV news features, locally on Channel 69 and on Fox 29 from Philadelphia and newspaper coverage with photos in The Morning Call and Express-Times. All the reports were very positive. Read more about the prom on page 6.



Celebrating against a rainbow backdrop, Erica Olson, 16, (left) holds her girlfriend Kira Whalen, 17, at the Prizm Prom. Both are juniors at Freedom High School.

Photo by Liz Sherry

**MCC HOSTS
OLDIES DANCE
JUNE 12**

'Spin the Disc Oldies Dance' on Saturday, June 12, 7 to 11 pm at MCCLV. \$5.00 donation. Light refreshments.

Questions? contact Robert Burton at Avalokitta@cs.com or 610-867-6733 or Kay 610-694-8952, 2 4 6 4 3 3 8 @msn.com.



INTERWEAVE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Interweave (of UUCLV) invites the GLBTIA community to an Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 9 at 7:30 pm at the UUCLV, 424 Center St. Bethlehem. All are welcome. For more info about Interweave, email AREGSVOL@aol.com or allysondiane@hotmail.com.

MCC ANNUAL PICNIC

MCCLV will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, June 12, noon to 6pm at the Emmaus Community Park, featuring: swimming (\$5 fee), children's playground, volleyball, board games (bring your favorite), and of course eating. MCCLV will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, soda; use of two grills; bags of ice. For info: contact Kevin Motroni at 215-327-9706 or kevbug@comcast.net



**GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE
GEARS UP FOR THE JUNE 20
FESTIVAL IN ALLENTOWN'S
CEDAR BEACH PARK &
THE PARADE DOWN
HAMILTON STREET.**

**PARADE BEGINS
AT NOON
FESTIVAL OPENING
CEREMONIES BEGIN AT
1PM**

Read more about Pride events on page 5

**PRIDE PARADE
TO FEATURE
MARCHING BAND!**

**MARCH TO THE
BEAT OF THE
LESBIAN
AND GAY
BIG APPLE
CORPS
MARCHING
BAND FROM NYC!**



What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



In response to the Candidate Guide mailings, PA-GALA receives letters included with dues payments. Here's a sampling PA-GALA has shared with VFP's What's That About:

PA Gala- Enclosed is a small donation. Sorry I couldn't give more. Thank you for your mailings. Several times I've called or written to Government officials about your issues. The end of August I'm moving to ----- Please remove me from your mailing list. Again thank you and best wishes for continued success. **M. S. in Emmaus, PA**

Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing to give you my address change... Also I greatly appreciate your sending me a copy of "Voter information from PA-GALA." I found it very helpful to know more of the facts about the candidates. We need more equality! Thanks very much for looking out for all of us in the gay and lesbian community. Your work and efforts have helped so many. Have a great day. **Sincerely, B. in Grampian**

Gentlemen, I cannot understand how your policies and recommendations on this election to your followers could possibly consider turning over the reins of our Nation to that inexperienced, unprincipled, stumbling bumbler evidenced in John F. Kerry. We are more of a Nation than GLBT issues! What about tax issues which affect our daily lives? What about our National Security? Kerry wants to get his hands on our Tax \$\$\$\$\$. Kerry would be a disaster to our Nation where it not (thankfully) for the unlikely case that he won, because the Congress would hopefully hobble his Left Wing policies. Broaden your criteria for our next leader. Otherwise you do us a disservice. Kerry in the White House? **PLEEEEEZZZZZ, S. in New Hope**

Dear (PA-GALA), ...I wanted to thank you for sending me (the super voter) the voting information. It helped me, my husband and daughter immensely. ...you lit a fire under me that had been out for quite a few years but I feel good working on getting our candidates elected. ...I also wanted to tell you that I would have helped out with the phone calls last Sunday but it was my grandson's first birthday. If you need help doing the same thing in November I would love to help you. Thank you again for all your informative e-mails. **Sincerely, M.D. in Chalfont**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA OPPOSES A FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

NCLR is the largest constituency-based national Hispanic organization in the country. This month NCLR's Board of Directors issued a strongly worded statement in opposition to a Federal Marriage Amendment which included:

"...We are concerned that the amendment would have other negative and discriminatory effects - including limiting access of same-sex couples and their families to employer-sponsored benefits, federal or state assistance, inheritance rights, hospital visitation and other medical rights, or limiting the capacity to petition for family members abroad through the immigration system.

Finally, NCLR cannot support any proposed constitutional amendment that actually restricts the rights of persons..."

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey®

Dear Denise, My partner and I would like to purchase a home in a gay friendly neighborhood.. We have begun to do some research, but we are concerned with the ability to obtain a mortgage. We just don't know what or who to believe about credit scores, mortgage insurance, paying points, etc. Can you offer us some advice? **Signed, Our First Time**

Dear First Time, Congrats on purchasing a new home. I just came across an informal survey, which wanted to identify the number of gay people who were homeowners. The statistic came out to be 79% of the individuals who answered the survey. This seems a little high to me, but let's see if we can turn this number into truth by getting you and your partner in a home of your own with your Rainbow flag flying proudly.

Let me dispel a few myths in the mortgage business.

Myth 5- Credit checks reduce your credit ratings -- Urban myth has concluded that if you have too many credit checks, it lowers your score. I have found that inquiries into your credit count for only 15 percent of your score and it is usually one of the last risk factors affecting your score. What typically changes your score is recent late payments or changes in your revolving balances. Late payments in the last three months can lower your credit score by as many as 80 points.

Myth 4- Mortgage insurance pays off your house in case you die -- Mortgage insurance or PMI is default insurance. You pay the premiums on it and the lender is the beneficiary. It does not, however, offer any benefit to you and your partner. Do not confuse this with mortgage protection life insurance policy, which does pay your mortgage off if you die.

Myth 3- Make sure you don't pay any points or closing costs when you get a loan -- Closing costs are inevitable when you get a loan. Mortgage companies are not working for free.

Myth 2- Always maintain your mortgage as a tax shelter -- This is a touchy subject with many schools of thought. A mortgage is great if you need it. However, even if you were in a 33 percent tax bracket, you would only get a tax deduction of 33 cents. Losing 67 cents is not a good investment. Pay your mortgage off if you plan to live in your home for more than five years. Add additional dollars toward the principle, when you can.

Myth 1- Paying off a bad account improves your credit scores -- If you and your partner become 90 days late on your mortgage in the past six months, catching up on the payments will help, but your score will be affected for the next 24 months from the last time you were late. The same is true if you had an account go to collection. Paying it off will help, but the next 24 months will remain on the credit score radar.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

MCCLV UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27 Annual Bus Trip to NYC Gay Pride Parade and Festival - Cost \$20 per person. October 9th - MCCLV's 20th Anniversary Dinner - Lehigh University's Iacocca Hall - Wood Dining Room - A joyous milestone in MCCLV's and the Lehigh Valley's GLBT Community history. Details to follow.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB

The Barnes and Noble GLBT Book Discussion Group meets the second Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:00PM in the cafe, at the Whitehall Store. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME. Each participant will receive a complimentary beverage.

Thursday, June 10, 7:30pm: The group will be discussing Leroy Aarons' book "Prayers for Bobby." It is about Bobby Griffith, an all-American boy who was also gay. Faced with an irresolvable conflict- for both his family and his religion that taught him being gay was "wrong"- Bobby chose to take his own life. This is also the story of Bobby's mother, a fearful churchgoer who first prayed that her son would be "healed," then anguished over his suicide, and ultimately transformed herself into a national crusader for gay and lesbian youth (PFLAG). Some of you may recognize this as performed, and recorded through song, by the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

July's selection, "The Kid" by Dan Savage, candidly narrates the adoption journey as taken by him and his boyfriend, Terry Miller. It tells a no-holds-barred, high-energy story of an ordinary American couple who wants to have a baby, except that in this case the couple happens to be Dan and his boyfriend.

The book for August will be selected at the June meeting. EVERYONE is welcome. For information, contact Barnes and Noble at: crm2636@bn.com.

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenfacilitators@yahooogroups.com or 610-868-2153.

PRIDE PUB

A first time for the Lehigh Valley event, an enclosed courtyard will house the new Pride Pub and will serve beer to those 21 and older at the festival on June 20. Be sure to purchase your Pride in the Park commemorative mug and receive discounts on soda and beer all day! Theater Outlet, with help from other groups, will be running the Pride Pub.

STEVIE Z

Stevie Z will be playing at the Moose Lounge in Allentown on Friday June 19, from 9PM-Midnight. One half of tips raised will be donated to FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together). Thanks to all of you who have come out to see how FUN a piano bar can be. Have a GREAT time and help support a worthy cause.

PFLAG TIMES

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
No PFLAG - Reading meetings until Sept.
PFLAG Allentown - June 1, July 6
PFLAG Monroe - June 2, July 7

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) Summer 2004 activity schedule is picking up steam. GLOSS offers volleyball, tennis, racquetball, bowling and Pinochle. For a full schedule please contact GLOSS, phone: 610-434-2966, email: info@gloss.org, or web: www.gloss.org.

10TH ANNUAL GAYDAY AT KNOEBELS

WHERE: KNOEBELS GROVE AMUSEMENT PARK - ELYSBURG PA
WHEN: Saturday, August 14
LOCATION IN PARK: PAVILION T-10
TIMES: Registration - 11:00AM
COVERED DISH LUNCH and RAFFLES: 3:00 PM for more information email - mike.escobar@gtscompanies.com

CBS FEATURES VFP ARTICLE

A copy of Liz Bradbury's article about Trish's accident and hospitalization, which was Liz's column in last month's VFP, is currently posted at the CBS News Site in the Voices of Swingtown section. Some additions to the article and a picture, are part of the site. It can be viewed at: (http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/05/27/politics/main61988_8.shtml).

ALL TOGETHER NOW HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL GLBT INCLUSIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

"All Together Now," an ecumenical faith-based coalition in the Lehigh Valley, invites all people of faith to attend its second annual all-inclusive welcoming worship service. This Christian multi-denominational service will be held at St Johns Lutheran Church, 32 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA, at 2 PM, on June 12, 2004. Refreshments after the service until 5:00 PM. This service is offered to reach out to GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) people of God in an effort to build bridges of acceptance and understanding, as Jesus would have done. The guest speaker, Bishop Paul V. Marshall of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem will speak on, "The Gay Faithful; Equal before God." Members from the LV Gay Men's Chorus and choir members from many other organizations, will perform. For information: Rachel Thompson, 610-997-5474 evenings, humanrights4all@aol.com.

INTERWEAVE

Interweave is a new GLBTIA group at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV). They held their first meeting ever on May 23. Their next meeting will be held at the church at 424 Center St. in Bethlehem, PA on Sunday, June 6 at 12:15 pm. Interweave is in the process of writing their mission statement, but the group is expected to be social with a focus on support & spirituality and the potential for recreational activities & community projects. For more info about Interweave, email AREGSVOL@aol.com or allysondiane@hotmail.com.

AMERICAN CANDIDATE

A reality SHOWTIME TV show called the American Candidate will be filming in the Lehigh Valley in June. It will pit every day people against each other in a mock run for President. PA-GALA will be one of the groups from which candidates can seek endorsement. PA-GALA will be using its standard questionnaires and interview techniques to select the faux candidate who best understands and supports GLBT rights. Then PA-GALA will pass this information on via email to PA people who can vote using an 800 phone number. This show will help to demonstrate how strong the GLBTA vote is in PA.

CALENDAR

JUNE 2004 PRIDE MONTH

AA - AA meetings on Wednesdays at MCCLV, Begin at 7pm

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK - AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/laids

ASC - AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BMA - Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N - Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541, email-GLORAINPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.

GLOW - at PPL

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network, is on a break -610.967.521

GMLV - Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF - Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity - Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

LVGMC - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition - 610-997-5474, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 james30338874@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mccclevh valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclev.org 610-709-8800

NCC - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There - Students at Cedar Crest College

OVOM - LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PARENTS - GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College, <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LV PFLAG GLOSS LVGMC MCC	2 HAVEN PFLAG M AA	3 RAA ACCO GLOSS M PFLAG	4	5 GLOSS Gay Men's Chorus Concert
6 HMFF MCC Interweave Pride Pageant GLOSS	7 RAA	8 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	9 HAVEN AA	10 Pride Pageant RAA ACCO GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB	11	12 WDIY GLOSS MCC Dance
13 HMFF MCC GLOSS	14 RAA	15 GLOSS LVGMC PFLAG R	16 HAVEN American Candidate AA	17 ACCO RAA GLOSS American Candidate	18	19 StevieZ WDIY GLOSS
20 PRIDE EVENTS UUCLV MCC	21 RAA GLSEN	22 LVGMC GLOSS	23 HAVEN AA	24 ACCO RAA GLOSS	25	26 GLOSS WDIY
27 HMFF UUCLV MCC BUS GLOSS WDIY	28 RAA	29	30 GLOSS LVGMC HAVEN			

JULY 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA	2	3 WDIY GLOSS Integrity
4 WDIY MCC HMFF	5 RAA	6 GLOSS MCC LV PFLAG LVGMC	7 HAVEN AA M PFLAG	8 RAA GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB	9 Interweave Ice Cream Social	10 WDIY GLOSS
11 HMFF MCC UUCLV	12 RAA	13 LVGMC	14 HAVEN AA	15 RAA GLOS PFLAG P	16	17 GLOS GLORA WDIY GLOS
18 HMFF MCC UUCLV GLOS	19 RAA	20 GLOS PFLAG R LVGMC	21 HAVEN AA	22 RAA GLOS	23	24 WDIY GLOS
25 HMFF MCC UUCLV GLOS	26 GLSEN RAA	27	28 HAVEN AA	29 RAA GLOS	30	31

AUGUST 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 WDIY GLOSS
8 WDIY HMFF MCC	9 RAA	10 GLOSS LV PFLAG MCC LVGMC	11 HAVEN AA M PFLAG	12 GLOSS RAA	13	14 WDIY GLOSS GAY DAY KNOEBELS
15 HMFF MCC UUCLV GLOS Bowling	16 RAA	17 LVGMC MCC	18 HAVEN AA	19 RAA GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB	20	21 GLOSS WDIY GLOSS
22 HMFF MCC UUCLV GLOS	23 RAA	24 GLOSS PFLAG R LVGMC MCC	25 HAVEN AA	26 GLOSS PFLAG P RAA	27	28 WDIY
29 HMFF WDIY UUCLV MCC	30 RAA	31 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	HAVEN AA	RAA GLOSS		WDIY GLOSS

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
Spectrum- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.5973
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 N 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com
VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
WDIY - WDIY- 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN- WEDNESDAYS
GAY MEN-LV- 2ND SATURDAYS
LV PFLAG- 1ST TUESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG- 1ST THURSDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG
- 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL- TUESDAYS
GLSEN - IS ON BREAK
GLOSS TENNIS- SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL- TUES & SATS

JUNE 1- LV PFLAG
JUNE 1- MCCLV
PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH
JUNE 2 - MONROE PFLAG
JUNE 5 -
LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT
JUNE 6 - INTERWEAVE
JUNE 6 -
QUEEN OF PRIDE PAGEANT
JUNE 8 - MCCLV
PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH
JUNE 10 - B&N GLBT BOOKCLUB
JUNE 10 - PRINCE & PRINCESS
OF PRIDE PAGEANT
JUNE 12 - MCCLV OLDIES DANCE
JUNE 12 - MCCLV PICNIC
JUNE 12 - ALL TOGETHER NOW
JUNE 16-18 - AMER CANDIDATE
JUNE 19 -
STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
JUNE 20 - UUCLV PRIDE SERVICE
JUNE 20- PRIDE FESTIVAL &
PARADE & OTHER EVENTS
JUNE 27 -
MCC BUS TRIP TO PRIDE NYC
JULY 3 - INTEGRITY
JULY 6 - LV PFLAG
JULY 7 - MONROE PFLAG
JULY 9 -
INTERWEAVE ICE CREAM SOCIAL
AUG 14 -
GAY DAY @ KNOEBELS
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO
CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

PRIDE GLV EVENTS

This year, Pride in the Park sports a later start time and marching band for the Parade, expanded festival hours and the addition of a Pride Pub and Tea Dance. Pride in the Park: Sunday, June 20, 1pm-9pm, Location: Cedar Beach Park, Allentown (across the creek to Mayfair grounds).

Besides The Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps Marching Band from NYC, the Pride Parade will include other local marchers and floats, queer organizations, churches, youth groups, bars, professional organizations and a motorcycle club. There is still time for your group or organization to register for the Parade. Enter as a walking unit, or with a vehicle, or with a float. Awards for "Best In Show" and "Most Original" will be presented at the Main Stage during Opening ceremonies at 1:00pm. The Parade begins at noon on 10th and Hamilton Streets and marches down Hamilton directly to Cedar Beach Park. To participate please email parade@prideglv.org. The Pride Parade Grand Marshall will salute the trans community - details in the VFP Pride issue.

1:00pm - Opening Ceremonies (Free Pride Souvenir, while supplies last)
 1:30pm - The Booklickers, bittersweet power pop, www.thebooklickers.com
 2:30pm - The Valley's Divine Drag Talents
 3:00pm - Kelli Dunham, stand up comedy; ex-nun on the run, www.kellidunham.com
 3:30pm - The Glamazons, big, bold and brassy stage babes, www.theglamazons.com

Kidspace is an area designated for kids and families. Enjoy a Puppen Meister Production marionette show at 2, 4, 6 and 8pm, Crayola arts and crafts, face painting, and an inflatable castle all day long.

What Else Is In Store? -- Food vendors, queer organizations, resources, and merchants selling prideware, jewelry and other fine products will be available the entire festival. Continue the festivities in the early evening by dancing to hot tunes from 6pm-9pm at the first Pride Tea Dance. All ages are welcome.

Volunteer For Pride -- Pride needs volunteers. Email volunteers@prideglv.org or call 610.770.6200 ext 1.

Pride GLV is pleased to announce this year's Pride in the Park Entertainment Series including both local and national talent. Opening ceremonies to include The National Anthem sung by the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Pride Parade Awards, a special Pride Production number and statements of support from our elected officials. Performances are open to the public, free. The 2004 Mistress of Ceremonies is Miss Tinsel Garland.

4:00pm - The Valley's Divine Drag Talents
 4:30pm - Ari Gold, global recording and performing artist, www.arigold.com
 5:30pm - The Valley's Divine Drag Talents
 6:00pm - Sister Funk, funky original dance female band, www.sisterfunk.com
 7:00pm - The Valley's Divine Drag Talents
 7:30pm - Zen For Primates, a quirky fusion of pop, jazz, funk, classical and cabaret

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

I am sick and tired of the straight's agenda. Pushing their love, life style and music onto me and my people. Yes, music. I must change the gender in all those romantic songs like *Brown Eyed Girl*, *She's Always a Woman*, and *The Bitch is Back* (bastard just doesn't fit, go ahead try it, I'll wait)...I'm sure this is equally frustrating for the lesbian population as well. And it's not just music but books too. It's time to strike back. Let's use this space to gay it up. The following is a reimagining of current and classic titles. The way they should have been all along. For your consideration I offer Dan Brown's *The DiVinci Cod Piece*, a book that aims to uncover the heavenly secrets "down there". And Dan Brown's other best seller, *Angels & Demons*. *A Night at the Stonewall*, a story of the sins of the flesh and the desperation of men. Best Seller #3 *The North Beach Diet*, *All Carbs*, *All the Time- The Italians Strike Back*. And for the girls, *The Five People You Meet in Home Depot*. (tell me that's not true!), Lauren Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Jesus Wears Berkinstocks*. *A Lesbian Fashion Guide*. Next, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of the Adult Book Store*. (Can you really be a prisoner if you choose to be there?). And as soon as he loses the election, George Bush can put the finishing touches on *What's My Point? Oh Yeah, I'm an Idiot and a Liar*. And next month sees former Pres William Jefferson Clinton's memoirs tentatively titled *That's Hard to Swallow*. Which, I guess was in response to Hillary's bio, *I'm Not Bio!*. Which is 180 degrees from Alan Cummings self-penned, *I Never Met a Bio I Didn't Swallow*. Not to be confused with Patsy & Edina's, *I Never Met a Pill I Didn't Swallow*. Which is totally different than Melissa Etheridge's *I Never Met a Carpet I Didn't Munch*. *The Low-Carb Craze Continues*.

More random thoughts. Congrats to all involved with the *Prizm Prom*. The turnout and the positive press will help ensure that this becomes an annual event. Congrats to Allyson Hamm for hosting a great birthday bash that raised some much needed \$\$\$ for PA-GALA. Think about hosting a Gala for GALA at your home. The money helps support those who fight for our rights. Congrats to Ellen DeGeneres for her Best Talk Show win at the recent Daytime Emmy Awards. Congrats to Dreamworks for topping itself with *Schrek 2*. This family friendly feature is probably the most gay friendly movie you'll see this summer. Not as much action as *S1* but with a cast including Rupert Everett, Jennifer Saunders (Edina to you & me), John Cleese, Julie Andrews and Larry King as an ugly stepister, it's a must see!!! Congrats to Bill Sanders and the cast & crew of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Full of great performances and divine direction, this is why we go to the theatre. Can't wait for Stage Door.

PLANET

Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearluca@msn.com**WHAT IF MY CHILD IS STRAIGHT?**

How many times have you seen letters to advice columnists with the heading "What if my child is gay?" These letters usually come from concerned heterosexual parents facing what they suddenly feel is the biggest dilemma of parenthood. They are at a total loss as to what they should do. How should they handle the truth when it comes out? They wonder what the sexual orientation of their child will mean to them, their family, friends, co-workers and relatives. How will their relationship with their child change? How should they view their child? Will their child suffer somehow? What should they do?

The columnists usually provide the standard advice: let the child share the information with them when they're ready, read up on the subject, join a support group, or seek family counseling. All of that can be extremely good advice for the parent who is totally lost, totally closed-minded, or just completely scared. It's also good advice for the good well-meaning parent who just wants to love and support their child and do what's right.

We think the real solution lies in what is the essence of a good well-meaning parent. What the GLBT child needs is what every child needs from a parent - love and support. A parent who loves their child regardless of his or her sexual orientation and supports them in their decision to be true to themselves and everyone around, is taking the right first step. It may really be all that needs to be done. The family relationship will grow. True friends will remain true friends, relatives have no choice but to be related, and it is not the business of co-workers. It's what we must work for anyway.

Maybe one day the question, "What if my child is gay?" will sound as ridiculous as "What if my child is straight?"

VICTORY! BIRMELIN AND MCNAUGHTON AMENDMENTS PUT ON HOLD

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted 96-94 with 12 excused to table SB 296 and the amendments that would expand the state's Defense of Marriage Act to prohibit same-sex and opposite-sex civil unions, domestic partnerships etc. and prevent the state and contractors and other organizations doing business with the state, from offering domestic partner benefits. The May 26 vote tables the legislation until November 8, 2004. Thank you to everyone who emailed, called or wrote letters to legislators. Greater Lehigh Valley State Representatives votes are below. A YES (Y = good) vote stopped the legislation from progressing.

Bard (R-Montgomery), Y
Browne (R-Lehigh), Y
Bunt (R-Montgomery), N
Callagione (D-Berks), Y
Clymer (R-Bucks), N
Cornell (R-Montgomery), Y
Corrigan (D-Bucks), Y
Crahalla (R-Montgomery), Y
Curry (D-Montgomery), Y
Dailley (R-Montgomery), N
Dally (R-Northampton), N
DiGirolamo (R-Bucks), N
Fichter (R-Montgomery), N
Freeman (D-Northampton), Y
Godshall (R-Montgomery), N
Gruccela (D-Northampton), N
Harhart (R-Northampton), N
Harper (R-Montgomery), N
Leach (D-Montgomery), Y

Leh (R-Berks), N
Mann (D-Lehigh), Y
McGill (R-Montgomery), Y
McIlhinney (R-Bucks), Y
Melio (D-Bucks), Y
Metcalfe (R-Butler), N
Miller, S. (R-Berks), N
O'Neill (R-Bucks), Y
Reichley (R-Lehigh), N
Rohrer (R-Berks), N
Rooney (D-Northampton), Y
Samuelson (D-Northampton), N
Santoni (D-Berks), Y
Semmel (R-Lehigh), N
Shaner (D-Fayette), N
Steil (R-Bucks), Y
Stern (R-Blair), N
Watson (R-Bucks), N
Weber (R-Montgomery), Y
Wright (R-Bucks), N

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

**BRAVO FOR THE PROM**

With the Governor of Massachusetts trying to limit gay marriages to Bay State residents, Missouri seeking to add a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage and, Dick Cheney working in between his heart attacks to curtail our rights, it would seem like the country is a metaphorical desert of prejudice for gay folks. Then Friday May 21st proved to be a welcome oasis for the young people and old chaperones who attended the Lehigh Valley's first ever Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Allied prom. The Prizm Prom was held in the Hotel Bethlehem's Terrace Room.

The high school prom is such an important rite of passage in America and now these students got to go to their own prom as themselves. With complete disregard to any traditional gender roles, 58 students from as far away as Harrisburg and New York City danced the night away under an arch of rainbow balloons. As I watched teenage folks pose in the lobby for photos I thought what a head start they have over older gay and lesbian generations.

And then there was more. An old wrong was made right in the Terrace Room. In 1984 two womyn tried to go to their prom as a couple. A group of football players determined that the couple should be hassled on the way into their prom, which coincidentally was also at the Hotel Bethlehem. Seeing the gang of thugs waiting for them at the door, the pair decided it was not worth the trouble and told their limo driver to keep driving. Twenty years later, the two of them were guests of honor at this very different prom.

I know time and effort went into this event, much of it by the students themselves.

So to the students as an older gay man, I say Bravo! on a job well done. I also say eat your vegetables. I noticed all the mozzarella sticks and chicken fingers were devoured, but the cut red peppers, carrots, celery were left largely untouched.

The Prizm Prom: Pride, Progress, Prima donnas, even Tina Turner's Private Dancer, but no prejudice.

FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In the US, it is estimated that 700,000-800,000 persons are infected with gonorrhea each year. Since 1993 the CDC has recommended the use of the antibiotic Cipro for treatment. It is inexpensive and treats gonorrhea in a single dose. Recently the CDC has discovered that resistance to the drug Cipro is developing. Studies that have been done in Massachusetts as well as in New York have shown that many of those infected with gonorrhea are men who have sex with men. It appears that strains of resistant gonorrhea are being passed and traditional treatment with Cipro has been ineffective.

What this means is that some of the cases of gonorrhea that have been treated with Cipro may not be cured. It is imperative that men who have had sex with men and have been diagnosed with gonorrhea, return to their treatment clinic for a test of cure. People can no longer assume that the traditional treatment they have received has been 100% effective and they are disease free.

Anyone with questions about gonorrhea can call the Allentown health Bureau at 610-437-7742 for more information. As always, the use of condoms and safer sex practice, will minimize the risk for gonorrhea and other STDs.

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



In response to the Candidate Guide mailings, PA-GALA receives letters included with dues payments. Here's a sampling PA-GALA has shared with VFP's What's That About:

PA Gala- Enclosed is a small donation. Sorry I couldn't give more. Thank you for your mailings. Several times I've called or written to Government officials about your issues. The end of August I'm moving to ----- Please remove me from your mailing list. Again thank you and best wishes for continued success. **M. S. in Emmaus, PA**

Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing to give you my address change... Also I greatly appreciate your sending me a copy of "Voter information from PA-GALA." I found it very helpful to know more of the facts about the candidates. We need more equality! Thanks very much for looking out for all of us in the gay and lesbian community. Your work and efforts have helped so many. Have a great day. **Sincerely, B. in Grampian**

Gentlemen, I cannot understand how your policies and recommendations on this election to your followers could possibly consider turning over the reins of our Nation to that inexperienced, unprincipled, stumbling bumbler evidenced in John F. Kerry. We are more of a Nation than GLBT issues! What about tax issues which affect our daily lives? What about our National Security? Kerry wants to get his hands on our Tax \$\$\$\$\$. Kerry would be a disaster to our Nation where it not (thankfully) for the unlikely case that he won, because the Congress would hopefully hobble his Left Wing policies. Broaden your criteria for our next leader. Otherwise you do us a disservice. Kerry in the White House? **PLEEEEEZZZZZ, S. in New Hope**

Dear (PA-GALA), ...I wanted to thank you for sending me (the super voter) the voting information. It helped me, my husband and daughter immensely. ...you lit a fire under me that had been out for quite a few years but I feel good working on getting our candidates elected. ...I also wanted to tell you that I would have helped out with the phone calls last Sunday but it was my grandson's first birthday. If you need help doing the same thing in November I would love to help you. Thank you again for all your informative e-mails. **Sincerely, M. D. in Chalfont**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA OPPOSES A FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

NCLR is the largest constituency-based national Hispanic organization in the country. This month NCLR's Board of Directors issued a strongly worded statement in opposition to a Federal Marriage Amendment which included:

"...We are concerned that the amendment would have other negative and discriminatory effects - including limiting access of same-sex couples and their families to employer-sponsored benefits, federal or state assistance, inheritance rights, hospital visitation and other medical rights, or limiting the capacity to petition for family members abroad through the immigration system.

Finally, NCLR cannot support any proposed constitutional amendment that actually restricts the rights of persons..."

2



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey®

Dear Denise, My partner and I would like to purchase a home in a gay friendly neighborhood.. We have begun to do some research, but we are concerned with the ability to obtain a mortgage. We just don't know what or who to believe about credit scores, mortgage insurance, paying points, etc. Can you offer us some advice? **Signed, Our First Time**

Dear First Time, Congrats on purchasing a new home. I just came across an informal survey, which wanted to identify the number of gay people who were homeowners. The statistic came out to be 79% of the individuals who answered the survey. This seems a little high to me, but let's see if we can turn this number into truth by getting you and your partner in a home of your own with your Rainbow flag flying proudly.

Let me dispel a few myths in the mortgage business.

Myth 5- Credit checks reduce your credit ratings -- Urban myth has concluded that if you have too many credit checks, it lowers your score. I have found that inquiries into your credit count for only 15 percent of your score and it is usually one of the last risk factors affecting your score. What typically changes your score is recent late payments or changes in your revolving balances. Late payments in the last three months can lower your credit score by as many as 80 points.

Myth 4- Mortgage insurance pays off your house in case you die -- Mortgage insurance or PMI is default insurance. You pay the premiums on it and the lender is the beneficiary. It does not, however, offer any benefit to you and your partner. Do not confuse this with mortgage protection life insurance policy, which does pay your mortgage off if you die.

Myth 3- Make sure you don't pay any points or closing costs when you get a loan -- Closing costs are inevitable when you get a loan. Mortgage companies are not working for free.

Myth 2- Always maintain your mortgage as a tax shelter -- This is a touchy subject with many schools of thought. A mortgage is great if you need it. However, even if you were in a 33 percent tax bracket, you would only get a tax deduction of 33 cents. Losing 67 cents is not a good investment. Pay your mortgage off if you plan to live in your home for more than five years. Add additional dollars toward the principle, when you can.

Myth 1- Paying off a bad account improves your credit scores -- If you and your partner become 90 days late on your mortgage in the past six months, catching up on the payments will help, but your score will be affected for the next 24 months from the last time you were late. The same is true if you had an account go to collection. Paying it off will help, but the next 24 months will remain on the credit score radar.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilgham Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

MCCLV UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27 Annual Bus Trip to NYC Gay Pride Parade and Festival - Cost \$20 per person. October 9th - MCCLV's 20th Anniversary Dinner - Lehigh University's Iacocca Hall - Wood Dining Room - A joyous milestone in MCCLV's and the Lehigh Valley's GLBT Community history. Details to follow.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

POP QUIZ 8

1. MTV is unveiling a new "GayTV Channel." It's called: A. LOGO B. QueerTV C. Q D. GayTV

2. The 2000 Census reports that in 96% of US counties there is at least one same-sex couple that is ____ there. A. paying taxes B. voting C. raising kids D. in a civil union

3. Which one of these states is not one of the 5 top US states with same-sex couples over the age of 55? A. ND B. NM C. ME D. PA

4. Which US state most recently passed a law recognizing domestic partnerships? A. VT B. NJ C. WI D. ME

5. Which US state recently passed a law denying any recognition of same-sex domestic partnership rights? A. CA B. IA C. CT D. VA

6. The International Olympic Committee has announced that Transsexual Athletes who wish to compete in their reassigned gender may: A. do so. B. may do so only if they are M to F C. not do so. D. do so only if they are F to M.

7. However, they (see Q. 6) may only compete if: A. their new gender is legally recognized by their county. B. they have had hormone treatments for 2 years. C. they have had genital reconstructive surgery. D. all of the above.

8. Lord Tebbit, an influential conservative leader in England, has continued his anti-gay tirade by claiming the country's current ____ epidemic can be blamed on the government's support of "buggery" A. STD B. obesity C. cicada D. ebola

9. A new ACLU campaign quotes ____ saying, "I am not the kind of American who would deny same-sex couples legal marriage rights. A. Fran Drescher B. Tammy Baldwin C. Kathy Najimy D. Rose Marie

10. George Michael's new CD 'Patience' includes a message to his late gay ____ about his own joyous gay life. A. uncle B. brother C. boyfriend D. sister

1. A 2. C 3. D 4. D 5. D 6. A 7. D 8. B 9. A 10. A

QUOTE#5

"You can't put the toothpaste back in the tube."
--Kevin Cathcart, of Lambda Legal Defense on the effect of fully credentialed gay marriages

TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING \$20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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We believe that we would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal. In the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS
LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater
19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

To add your organization to this list, Contact VFP

QUOTE #1

"Government officials, including Gov. Romney, should be helping families and supporting equality, not putting obstacles in the path of people seeking to care for one another." -- Evan Wolfson, E.D. of Freedom to Marry

QUOTE #2

"As we commemorate Memorial Day 2004, we should remember all the service members who sacrificed their lives, and we should take a special moment to remember the GLBT soldiers who lost their lives and whose service is forgotten. They served their country proudly and honorably, but they have also served in the face of 50 years of institutionalized discrimination by the U.S. government and military against GLBT soldiers.
---By Cheryl Jacques, HRC President, C. Dixon Osburn, SLDN Executive Director, and A.J. Rogue, AVER President

QUOTE#3

"Are we saying that if we treat gay people badly enough they'll go away? Or they'll stop being gay? Gay couples will exist in Pennsylvania. They always have. Do we want them going around as second-class citizens without basic rights? This is a horrible message to send."
-- Rep. Daylin Leach, D-Montgomery, saying he didn't know exactly what the Legislature's goal was with the anti-gay amendments in Bill SB 296.

QUOTE#4

"They should just call it the Mel Gibson amendment."
--Musician Lou Reed on the Constitutional Marriage Ban

Distelfink © 6/04 "How they will be remembered."

Gov. George Wallace
1955



**SEGREGATION TODAY...
SEGREGATION TOMMORAH...
SEGREGATION FOREVAH**

News Announcer: 2004
...During this 50 year Anniversary of Brown V. the Board of Education we remember the hateful words of a bigoted Governor of the past...

Gov. Mitt Romney
2004



"We do not intend to export our marriage 'confusion' to the entire nation."

News Announcer: 2054
...During this 50 year Anniversary of same-sex civil marriage rights we remember the hateful words of a bigoted Governor of the past...

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.